

Agency Initiatives:

There are several initiatives the Agency is excited about:

DENTAL INITIATIVES you will be discussing in meeting today

First Look -:

- Certified physicians eligible to perform dental risk assessments/varnishing up to age 3 effective January 2009
- Medicaid Patient 1st providers will be able to bill for an initial oral assessment and the application of fluoride varnish for high caries risk children.

Dental PAs: now processed by EDS (streamline the prior approval process)

Maternity Care

- Dr. Moon and staff conducted Town Hall Meetings throughout state
- Maternity Care Advisory Committee made up of various Associations and representatives from 14 Districts met to discuss ideas generated from meetings
- Recipient Survey effort planned for March
- Plan is to determine changes and rebid contract this summer
- Current Contract ends December 2009

Radiology Management Contract

- Awarded to MedSolutions, effective March 2 – Radiology PA program

LTC Partnership program -

- Administered in conjunction with Department of Insurance, effective March 1
- Protects assets from Medicaid spend down policy for nursing home clients

PLAN 1ST Waiver

- Approved to cover women up to age 55.

Patient 1st Waiver

- Waiver renewal request is still pending before CMS. We have responded to CMS's questions and await their response.
- Hope to extend to "medical neighborhood" concept to include pharmacy

TFQ Initiatives

- Piggybacking off the Patient 1st medical home model
- Receiving national attention
- Legislative presentation February 25th

EHR (Electronic health records grant) – nice banner displayed in lobby

- 1of12 states chosen for Medicare Electronic Health Records Demonstration – hope to begin these efforts this summer

Legislature (Federal and State)

- Governmental Affairs Division staff and agency staff reviewing several bills both federal and state.

CMS Negotiations

- Ongoing discussions with CMS – challenging a 20 year reimbursement methodology (CPE/IGTs)
- The Commissioner and staff briefed both legislative budget committee chairs (Chairman Bedford and Knight) last week
- Governor and staff briefed the delegation in Washington last week

MEDICAID UPDATE – OCHA MEETING
FEBRUARY 19, 2009

Budget – State

- Fully Funded at current level FY 2008/2009
- FY 2009/2010 budget @ estimation has been submitted
- Governor implemented the Deficit Reduction Plan that placed a freeze on hiring, purchasing of state vehicles, limited equipment purchases and curtailed travel and placed a freeze on annual merit raises Jan 1, Dec 31
 - We were not held to the 10%, but have implemented the limitations on purchases, etc., and travel has been limited.

Budget – Federal Stimulus

- Signed by President Obama Tuesday
- Right now we're in the process of reviewing this new law and all the federal rules and regulations that go with it with the Governor's office. It will take some time to accurately assess its impact on state agencies and programs, but we've already gotten started and should have a clear picture soon.